

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001a. letter	To constituent from Margaret A. Williams re letter (partial) (1 page)	05/30/95	b(6)
001b. letter	Draft of letter to constituent from Margaret A. Williams re: letter (partial) (1 page)	n.d.	b(6)
001c. letter	Handwritten letter to Maggie Williams from constituent re: politics and personal (partial, 1st and last pages) (2 pages)	03/30/95	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Maggie Williams (Correspondence)
OA/Box Number: 12630

FOLDER TITLE:

[Maggie Williams Mail 1995-1996]: D

2013-0359-S

rv1335

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 5, 1996

Dr. Joseph H. Davis, M.D.
Palo Alto Medical Clinic
300 Homer Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

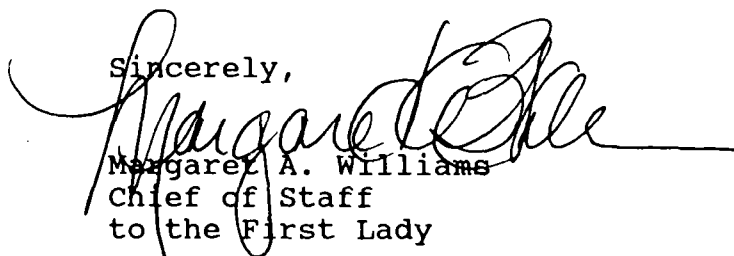
Dear Dr. Davis:

Thank-you for your letter and the copy of Annette Baran's article from DECREE.

We currently have no briefings on adoption issues planned for the near future. However, given Mrs. Clinton's strong interest in this area, we certainly will be doing more work on the topic in the future.

We applaud your dedication and work in this important field.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Margaret Williams", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Margaret A. Williams
Chief of Staff
to the First Lady

Joseph H. Davis, M.D.
Pediatrics
Advice Doctor



A Sutter Health Affiliate

Dear Mrs Williams —

1/24/96

I am a Pediatrician who for many years has been involved in adoption. I have served on the Committee for Adoption & Foster care of the American Academy of Pediatrics & I am currently the Genetic Control officer of the International Surrogate Recipient

Register.

I have read & am impressed with Annette Baron's article in Decree (enclosed) and I second her plea that the AAC be included in the White House Briefings with child welfare advocates.

Sincerely,

Health Care Division

Palo Alto Medical Clinic, 300 Homer Ave. Palo Alto, CA 94301 (415) 853-2027

DECREE

Fall 1995

Established 1978

Vol. 12, No. 24



Clarifying Important Issues for our First Lady

by Annette Baran, MSW, LCSW

Hillary Rodham Clinton is now a nationally syndicated columnist for the Associated Press, appearing weekly in scores of newspapers across the United States. Her first column, August 2, 1995, was headlined, "Change the rules that get in way of adoption."

There is no doubt in my mind that Mrs. Clinton is a caring, sensitive woman who has expressed concern and expended efforts on behalf of children for many years.

She was an active participant in the work of the Children's Defense Fund, starting early in her career as an attorney. There is also unfortunately no doubt in my mind that Mrs. Clinton's understanding about the complex issues and truths about adoption, foster home placement, and family preservation are somewhat lacking. I hope that we can increase her knowledge base and enlist her formidable skills and influence on behalf of children who need adoption or permanent foster homes.

She describes in the column how she used those skills to bring Mother Theresa to Washington, D.C., where a generous anonymous donor helped her set up a small group home for eight infants. Her hope was that this would be "a crucial step in awakening Americans to the crisis of adoption." Mrs. Clinton continued that "we should stop yelling at each other about abortion, we should spend our energy making adoption easier. If that were to happen, there would be far fewer abortions and far more children in happy homes."

There are no studies, to my knowledge, that support that statement. These are two very separate issues without any connection. Perhaps, instead, Mrs. Clinton should have emphasized the fact that no one is in favor of or likes abortion, or believes that it is a good procedure to advocate.

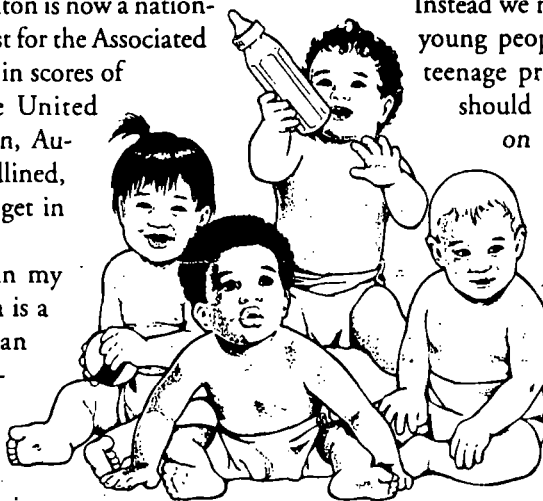
Instead we need to begin educating our young people to the need to prevent teenage pregnancy. We, as a nation, should begin a campaign focusing on responsibility and recognition of the importance of waiting for adulthood before becoming parents.

Mrs. Clinton continued, "Today, there are about 450,000 children in the United States who need permanent families. There are tens of thousands of parents seeking to adopt. Yet every

day complex, outdated assumptions and wrong-headed laws stand in the way of bringing these parents and children together."

I wish that it was that simple, Mrs. Clinton. I also agree with you that we do have a crisis in adoption. Child Welfare specialists have long been aware of the national disgrace of our foster home

(continued on page 3)



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First Lady Issues—Baran

(continued from page 1)

system. The number, which daily grows closer to the half-million mark, is composed primarily of special needs children, for whom there are not tens of thousands of families eagerly waiting. Special needs children are older, handicapped, members of sibling groups, emotionally disturbed, victims of neglect and abuse, and children who have lost connection after connection, being moved from home to home. It is estimated that 100,000 of these children are legally available for adoption. There are not 100,000 families or even half that amount willing and ready to adopt these special needs children. Most of the families waiting to adopt are waiting for new born infants. Only about 14,000 of these special needs children find their way into adoptive homes in any given year. We could, with your help Mrs. Clinton, increase that number.

We need to mount a campaign to enlist families who have special skills and deep hearts, and are willing to help these children become more stable and secure, knowing the difficulties involved. We need to concentrate our efforts for these children, rather than involve all of our emotions in the arena of placing newborn "blue ribbon" babies. At the same time, we need to recognize that children separated from their root families need to maintain connections and, whenever possible, return to these families.

Mrs. Clinton concluded her column with, "Wouldn't it be wonderful if we did something dramatic about adoption? Why not set a goal of placing 100,000 children each year for the next five years? To do this, we would have to make adoption easier and enlist volunteer lawyers and judges to speed up the legal process. And we should follow Mother Theresa's model, in which considerations like money, regulations and skin color do not outweigh the more important gift of love that adoptive parents want to offer."

I am unclear about the group she is talking about. As a matter of fact we are finalizing adoptions for almost 100,000 children annually. This total includes the 14,000 special needs children already mentioned, about 25,000 newborn infants, and about 40,000 to 50,000 step-parent or relative adoptions. If Mrs. Clinton wants to reduce our 450,000 foster children by 100,000 annually, it doesn't compute. If she wants to increase the number of families that will come forward to offer homes to these special needs children, I and

all my colleagues and friends in the reform movement of adoption will welcome her efforts and join her. I hope that she will also want to help to reunite those children who can and should return to their birth families.

Let us all extend our welcome to Mrs. Clinton to help us in our efforts to find good permanent homes for all of those children who move from foster home to foster home and who so desperately need stability and security. A Children's Defense Fund Board Member has indicated her organization's concern about the column's emphasis, and that they are considering coming out with an affirmative agenda on adoption. I think we should welcome their efforts, and offer our input. I, for one, would like to nominate Hillary Rodham Clinton, First Lady of the United States, to lead a national campaign, and I offer her my support and co-operation.

I hope all of you will write to: Margaret Williams, Chief of Staff to the First Lady, Office of the First Lady, Old Executive Office Bldg., Room 100, Washington, D.C. 20500; Phone: (202) 456-6266, Fax: (202) 456-6244; Internet: president@whitehouse.gov. Tell Ms. Williams how you feel and ask that AAC be included in the White House briefings Mrs. Clinton is having with child welfare advocates on adoption issues.

Annette Baran, a leading adoption reformer, has been a social worker since the late 1940's. She began handling adoptions because, as she says, it was serendipitous—and she needed a job. Ultimately, she became the director of one of the largest adoption agencies in California.

Initially, she believed strongly in closed adoption. But over the years, she began to have doubts about the secrecy inherent in the adoptions she handled. Her painful days at work were those when birthmothers would call to ask about the welfare of their relinquished children. Finally, in the mid-1970's, after a young adult adoptee approached her for help in connecting with his birth family, Annette embarked on an entirely new career: adoption reform.

Since 1978, she has co-authored two groundbreaking books: The Adoption Triangle and Lethal Secrets. She also works extensively as a consultant and expert witness, as well as conducting training and research in an effort to bring about change in the way adoptions are handled in the future.

"Most of the families waiting to adopt are waiting for new born infants. Only about 14,000 [of the 100,000] special needs children find their way into adoptive homes in any given year."

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 12, 1995

Mr. John DiCarlo
2229 7th Street
Peru, IL 61354

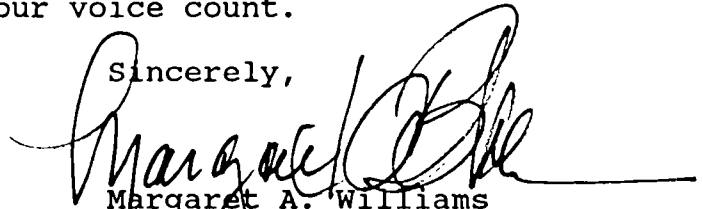
Dear Mr. DiCarlo:

Thank you very much for your thoughtful letter. Your comments provide the Clinton Administration with a better understanding of this complex issue.

I can assure you that we consider carefully the views of concerned individuals like you before making policy decisions.

Thank you for taking the time to make your voice count.

Sincerely,



Margaret A. Williams
Chief of Staff
to the First Lady

2229 7th Street
Peru, IL 61354
Sept. 30, 1995

First Lady
Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

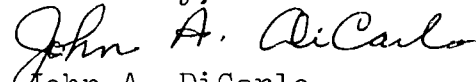
Dear Mrs. Clinton:

I am very pleased that you have spoken out against abortion during your recent trip to China.

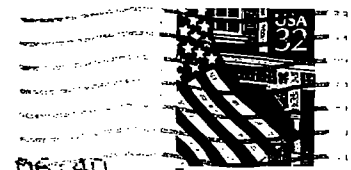
I hope that you can convince President Clinton that forced abortion is grounds for political asylum. The 13 Chinese women imprisoned by the United States should not be deported back to China where they will face extreme punishment in slave labor camps or even death.

I ask that you take action to convince President Clinton to change his policy and help these Chinese women. May God continue to bless you with the courage to speak out for justice.

Sincerely,


John A. DiCarlo

John A. DiCarlo
2229 7th Street
Peru, IL 61354



WASH., D.C. GMF DCR 10/05/95 05:40

Maggie A. Williams
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 19, 1995

Senator Christopher Dodd
444 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0702

Dear Senator:

Thank you for your recent letter inviting the First Lady to participate in the Spring 1996 Gala Benefit of the Women's Center of Southeastern Connecticut, Inc.

I have forwarded your request to the Scheduling Office. If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,



Margaret A. Williams
Chief of Staff
to the First Lady

CHRISTOPHER J. DODD
CONNECTICUT

COMMITTEES:

BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS

BUDGET

FOREIGN RELATIONS

LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0702

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
444 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 224-2823
TDD (202) 224-5464

STATE OFFICE:
100 GREAT MEADOW ROAD
WETHERSFIELD, CT 06109
(203) 240-3470
TDD (203) 529-7498

EMAIL: SEN_Dodd@Dodd.Senate.Gov

September 7, 1995

Ms. Margaret Williams
Chief of Staff
Office of the First Lady
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Williams:

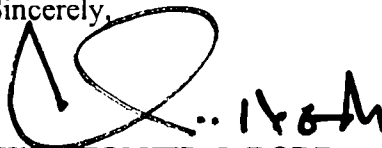
I am pleased to enclose correspondence to the First Lady regarding an invitation for her to participate in the Spring 1996 Gala Benefit of the Women's Center of Southeastern Connecticut, Inc.

I would appreciate your assistance in forwarding this request to the First Lady and the appropriate office within the White House.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Michelle Halloran, of my Connecticut office, at (860) 240-3470.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER J. DODD
United States Senator

CJD/mh
Enclosure

DODD
UT
TEES:
HOUSING, AND
BAN AFFAIRS
BUDGET
FOREIGN RELATIONS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0702
September 5, 1995

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
444 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 224-2823
TDD (202) 224-5464

STATE OFFICE:
100 GREAT MEADOW ROAD
WETHERSFIELD, CT 06109
(203) 240-3470
TDD (203) 529-7498

EMAIL: SEN_Dodd@Dodd.Senate.Gov

LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
First Lady
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

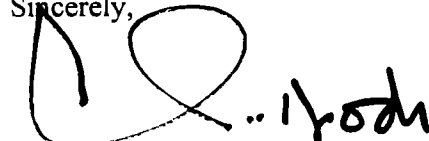
I am pleased to write on behalf of the Women's Center of Southeastern Connecticut, Inc. which has invited you to participate as keynote speaker of their Spring 1996 Gala Benefit.

As you may know, the Women's Center provides a range of comprehensive counseling and support services to individuals and families who are victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Targeting twenty-four towns in the Southeastern Connecticut area, it has also implemented a successful violence prevention program for young people and several educational workshops for corporate and community groups regarding sexual harassment, domestic violence, and related issues. Clearly, your participation in the Women's Center's principal fundraiser - the Spring 1996 Gala Benefit - will ensure the continued success of the Women's Center and its critical work on behalf of victims and their families.

Understanding the constraints on your schedule, I appreciate your review of the Women's Center's kind invitation and know you will accord it every consideration. If I can provide you with additional information regarding this special request, please do not hesitate to contact my Connecticut office.

With all the best, I am

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER J. DODD
United States Senator

CJD/mh
In reply:

Connecticut office
Putnam Park
100 Great Meadow Road
Wethersfield, Connecticut 06109
(860) 240-3470
Attention: Michelle Halloran

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 5, 1995

Mr. C.E. Brown
P.O. Box 2202
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067

Dear Mr. Brown:

I received your recent letter of August 12th, and have forwarded it to the White House Office of Agency Liaison. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,


Margaret A. Williams
Chief of Staff
to the First Lady

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 11, 1995

Mr. John N. DePoe, Jr.
President and CEO
Wind Baron
3920 E. Huntington Drive
Flagstaff, Arizona 86004

Dear Mr. DePoe:

Please allow me to thank you on Mrs. Clinton's behalf for sharing with us the information concerning your company, Wind Baron Corporation, and its renewable energy systems.

Although your correspondence is greatly appreciated, it was not received in time to give it consideration for Mrs. Clinton's trip to South East Asia. Therefore, I have forwarded your correspondence to Secretary Hazel O'Leary at the Department of Energy.

With thanks and best wishes.

Sincerely,



Margaret A. Williams
Chief of Staff
Office of the First Lady

She please Respond

January 23, 1995

Capricia Marshall
Office of the First Lady

Dear Ms Marshall;

The other day I caught a short portion on TV of Mrs Clinton addressing a Democratic Convention. Looking, speaking and gestulating like some tough union bos she made a comment about "How do the Republicans like it now when they get critized by Democrats, etc." That was the gist of it anyway. She got quite a round of applause from the programmed clappers. It sickened me.

Who writes these speeches for Mrs Clinton? Who moves her into the principal role of critizing the Republicans or any other governmental group or person before a National plattform? What is her capacity when she does this? If you say she is the First Lady I would agree. But is this a function of first ladies? Are there not others that are elected paid officers or other officials of the Democratic Convention who can do this because it is their responsibility or duty to do so?

I do not view the position of our First Lady to be a gutter level mouth piece for any political party or piece of legislature. I would agree that she has the right of free speech but for heaven's sake, someone up there recognize that she holds the position of First Lady. Screaming spiteful and virulent statements is a disgrace to her and to the position she holds.

Get that women a good adviser. Drag in those speech writers of hers and give them some guidance. Otherwise, the Clintons will have two bad years ahead. The American people, whether Democrat or Republican expect and want more from our first lady. Her role is not to be a rabble rouser or violent oral protester.

When she acts has such, ironically, she is doing the President harm.

If I am off base on my comments, please let me know.

Sincerely;

R. C. Delsi
R. C. Delsi

1230 White Oak Drive
Santa Rosa, CA. 95409

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 1, 1995

R.C. Delsi
1230 White Oak Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95409

Dear M. Delsi:

I want to take just a moment to thank you for the interest and concern which prompted your letter of January 23rd. Your comments have been circulated to appropriate members of our staff.

It was good of you to take the time to write as you did. It is always helpful to have feedback -- no matter how critical.

Sincerely,


Margaret A. Williams
Chief of Staff
Office of the First Lady

DRAFT FOR MAW SIGNATURE

Dear M. Delsi:

I want to take just a moment to thank you for the interest and concern which prompted your letter of January 23rd. Your comments have been circulated to appropriate members of our staff.

~~I am sorry that the portion of Mrs. Clinton's remarks you saw on television affected you so negatively,~~
but it was good of you to take the time to write as you did. It is always helpful to have feedback -- no matter how critical.

Sincerely,

Send w/change

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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ry1335

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 30, 1995

(b)(6)

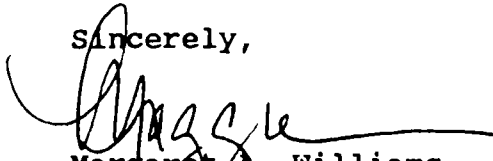
[001a]

Dear (b)(6),

A belated but heartfelt thank you for your letter of late March. I really appreciate hearing your views and concerns. After reading your letter, I thought you might enjoy reading President Clinton's commencement address at Michigan State University. While it does not address all your concerns, I think it addresses some of the issues that you raised.

I am always happy to hear from fellow Trinity Alumna. Thank you for taking the time to write. Best wishes to you and your family.

Sincerely,



Margaret A. Williams
Chief of Staff to the
First Lady

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wan -
pls have
this letter done
up for mags.

[0016]

(b)(6)

Also - get copy of
MSU speech from
press office

Dear (b)(6),

A belated but heartfelt thank you for your letter of late March. I really appreciate hearing your views and concerns. After reading your letter, I thought you might enjoy reading President Clinton's commencement address at Michigan State University. While it does not address all your concerns, I think it addresses some of the issues that you raised. *jeanette*
Diane

I am always happy to hear from fellow Trinity Alumna. Thank you for taking the time to write. Best wishes to you and your family.

Sincerely,

Margaret A. Williams

~~(whatever normal close is)~~

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(b)(6)

[DOLC]

March 30, 1995

Dear Maggie Williams, Trinity Alumna,
(when I take the outrageous
and audacious liberty of calling (to
myself)
my white House pipeline),

A couple of twaguts to fend off
the Gingriches, Gramms, etc., who
sounded like Nazis the first days
after the election. I was genuinely
frightened.

I. Recently on tv I saw students
at Baldwin-Wallace, a Cleveland
area college, protesting the education
cuts. I twagut to myself, "I
wonder how many of these kids
voted in November?"

Alas, I discovered last week that
my very own daughter didn't vote.
(Cynical, "both parties the same", etc.)

2.

Conclusion: THE REPUBLICANS HAVE DONE US A GREAT FAVOR: they have shown the country that voting or not voting does make a difference, that the parties are different.

2. Inner city residents, who will be hurt even more by the Republicans. How many of them voted?

3. I was brought up to be "nice", and to put up with continual emotional abuse from my former husband, including numerous marital infidelities. I put up with this for 25 years, being "nice". Eventually this led to my son's mental breakdown and eventual suicide. I should have taken a stand and left years before I realized this should

3.

be an end to all this, and
get a divorce.

President Clinton, I imagine,
was also brought up to be "nice",
but I think it's time to get
tough, and publicly angry —

even Christ was angry, and
threw over the tables at the
temple.

4. My wish: that someone
is taking down every cruel wish
and thought of the newly-elected
Republicans — cut out school lunches,
put kids in orphanages, etc., and
keeping a list to whip out at the
proper time. LET US NOT FORGET.

Let's not be "nice" — let's
fight for justice, even though we
may displease a few people.

4.

I fully agree that we need welfare reform, but not the Republican way.

As for the criticisms of "midnight football", when will people realize

that one cause of crime is

BOREDOM, BOREDOM, BOREDOM. I'll

never forget an incident that happened years ago in Greenwich Connecticut (or a similar wealthy town) where bored ^{rich} kids broke into a house (the residents were in Florida, I believe), slashed oil paintings, broke mirrors, destroyed other property. Why?

They were bored.

5. Not an issue at present, but as a resident of the Cleveland area I see that it's time — past time — to stop busing.

It was needed at the time, because

5. —

of broken-down schools, books
15 & 20 years behind the times,
etc. for black children. However,
busing has separated parents from
schools and teachers — we can go
to a PTA meeting when it's (the school)
miles and miles away, and perhaps
3 buses are needed to get there?
I know my mother, and her close
touch with ^{my} teachers, in elementary
school, was responsible for my
growing up loving learning and
doing well in school. (see "wedgeschools"
article, enclosed).

To sum up my hopes for
Democratic & Clinton success in the
next election:

1. Begin get-out-the vote actions
now, particularly for those who
didn't vote in the last election
(see article, enclosed, about Mayor
Stokes's re-election)

2. Keep a "don't forget" list of Republican mean wishes; whether they change their minds or not, they're saying now what's really in their hearts. Let's not allow the teflon effect to gloss over the meanness.

3. President Clinton, please don't be quite so nice. We know you're a good person and believe in the dignity of every human being. Go bust a few tables in the temple.

Well, Maggie Williams, thanks for listening. Incidentally, a friend of mine, a psychiatric social worker, says Medicare is the best of all the health systems, and the easiest to deal with. So much for governmental bureaucracy & "inefficiency".

7.

you will agree that
I hope, at least some of
these ideas might be worthy
of consideration by Senator

Dodd, George Stephanopolis, (oops! sorry!)
or James Carvill as we all
tune about hearing the dragon

Best wishes from the
hinterlands! (No need to reply.)

(b)(6)

[001C]

P.S. Don't you think, at times,
that Gingrich is
irrational? Or at least stupid.

P.P.S. I have a guest here from Holland —
know what they call us over there
(we've been talking about drive-by shootings)? Wild West
America!

COMMONWEAL

Seymour Melman

HOW TO CUT THE MILITARY BUDGET BY \$54 BILLION

The Coup That Never Was *Marcio Moreira Alves*

A Walk Through the 13th Century *John L. Herlihy*

Mayor Stokes' West Side Story *Mary Dowling Daley*

Bernadette Devlin's Autobiography *Philip Tracy*

Ivan Gold's Sick Friends *Leonard Kriegel*

Andrew Greeley in the Year 2000 *Paul Hanly Furfey*

James Fraser is Alive and Well *Bruce Vawter*

The March on Washington *Joseph A. Page*

Semi-Confronting the Issues *William R. MacKaye*

A Tale of Two Speeches *Peter Steinfels*

ment that may help to explain why the conference exuded the tone it did. His admittedly partisan assessment: "The meeting was for all practical purposes controlled by Cardinals McIntyre, O'Boyle, Krol and Wright. You heard Dearden's voice because he presided. Almost the only time you ever heard the other 200 bishops was when they made their reports, were clapping and agreeing with a report, or laughing at one of McIntyre's or O'Boyle's corny comments. It was like a boring Holy Name meeting with the above four cardinals as spiritual directors."

Yet, despite Father Sullivan's assertion that other bishops "lack the courage to organize and confront McIntyre and company," there were small signs that an opposition to the old guard is cautiously taking form. Twenty bishops voted "no" to the birth control declaration. The celibacy statement garnered just three votes more than the two-thirds approval it needed to become an official statement of the hierarchy; the opponents to giving it such status made little effort to conceal their distaste. Bishop Joseph Breitenbeck of Grand Rapids, one of the opponents, explained delicately that he and others felt that "a certain number of priests . . . were simply not prepared to welcome another statement" on celibacy. Moreover, both Bishop Breitenbeck and Archbishop Philip M. Hannan of New Orleans, who once was an auxiliary to Cardinal O'Boyle, suggested that the bishops might soon find themselves discussing the possibility of ordaining married men to the priesthood. In such circumstances, they might find elements of their November 1969 statement a little inconvenient.

If the reform-minded among the bishops were tempted to temporize in their quest for an updating of the church in America, they found plenty of lobbyists in the corridors of the Statler-Hilton Hotel eager to scourge them onwards. Representatives of unofficial pressure groups, almost all of them vociferously progressive, have now multiplied so exuberantly that it is impossible for the bishops to ignore them.

Father Patrick O'Malley, president of the National Federation of Priests' Councils, who found no hearing in Houston seven months ago because his group "lacked juridical standing," was invited this time to address a plenary session. He told bishops to get busy establishing a national pastoral council to give representative priests, religious and laymen some say in church affairs.

Father Donald M. Clark, president of the Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, did even better. He pried out of the bishops the creation of an autonomous "National Office for Black Catholics," which the bishops will finance at least in part but which will be controlled by a board elected by black priests, religious and, ultimately, laymen. The office, moreover, is going to tell the bishops how to run their business insofar as it affects black members of the church. When one bishop inquired whether there was any precedent for the Bishops' Conference to establish an autonomous agency, Cardinal

Dearden told him Cardinal O'Boyle established the precedent last year by selling the conference on creating the independent "human life foundation" which finances research on the rhythm method.

Other bodies eager to tell the bishops what to do—the National Association of Laymen, the Society of Priests for a Free Ministry, the Women's Liberation Movement, the Black United Front of Washington, among others—did less well in promoting their agendas. But Cardinal Dearden and Bishop Joseph M. Bernardin, the Conference's general secretary, successfully promoted the idea that every group that asked for time would get the opportunity to present its ideas to a committee for subsequent reporting to the floor.

Meantime, the conference standing committees cranked out reports, approved by the bishops with little flurry, that inevitably will alter the shape of yesterday's Catholic life. The bishops called upon themselves to set up clear litigation schemes in every diocese. The plan was obviously designed to head off recurrent deadlocked scraps like the ones between Cardinal McIntyre and the IHM nuns or Cardinal O'Boyle and his priestly critics of *Humanae Vitae*. They endorsed almost in toto new (and at some points dramatically different) English language rites for the Mass, Baptism and Marriage.

But despite these modest advances, there was more than a little truth to another of Father Sullivan's bleak observations: "The house is on fire and they're worrying about the color of the curtains." WILLIAM R. MACKAYE

(William R. MacKaye specializes in reporting on religion for The Washington Post.)

NOV. 1969

Mayor Stokes' West Side Story

Cleveland's charismatic black Mayor picked up his most surprising vote gains in the November 4 elections in two predominantly white West Side wards. The sociological composition of the area is such that some might consider it a bailiwick of Richard Milhous Nixon's "forgotten people." In Ward 7, Carl Stokes received 35.2 percent of the vote as against 28.5 percent in 1967; in Ward 8 he received 32 percent to '67's 22.8 percent. Stokes' 1967 vote in the two wards was 2411; his plurality in the entire city, 3753. The increases were achieved in a heavily European ethnic section of the city against Republican Ralph Perk, the son of Czechoslovak immigrants.

Experts had said all along that the battle would be won or lost on the white West Side. A drop in registration of 10,000 East Side Negro voters had made the West Side performance all the more critical. (The Mayor's actual vote in some all-black wards dropped by more than 7000.) The "near" West Side, or Wards 7 and 8, just

over the bridge from downtown Cleveland, is still the kind of melting pot New York City was in the early 1900's. The population is a mix of Southern Appalachians fleeing the poverty of West Virginia and Kentucky, first and second-generation Europeans (Czechs, Slovenians, Hungarians, Russians, Ukrainians, Poles, Greeks, Germans and Italians), Anglo-Saxon Protestants and Irish Catholics, Puerto Ricans and relocated American Indians. Only a possible 5 percent are Negroes.

For the most part the people are poor because underemployed or on welfare, or are slightly better-off blue-collar steel, automotive and other factory workers who live in houses with small, neat yards; the kind of people who for American journalists have become a symbol of white backlash.

The near West Side has its share of problems: Saturday night shootings at bars, glue-sniffing and beer-drinking by minors, racial and national tensions among gangs of kids. Though the near West Side has its gentle people too, some people on the far (and more affluent) West Side consider it pretty rough territory. White liberals living in Cleveland's integrated East Side suburbs have suspected it to be a hotbed of bigotry.

Why did such a potentially hostile area (frequently hostile in practice) up Carl Stokes' margin so dramatically? Cleveland newspaper reporters have arbitrarily attributed the Mayor's success in Wards 7 and 8 to "a large influx of Puerto Rican voters" and to "the Democratic party's decision to expose Stokes to large numbers of West Side voters during the last weeks of the campaign."

Sorry, wrong on both counts. The Puerto Rican population is fairly stable, and has not experienced any tremendous upsurge in the two years since 1967; even now the total count of registered Puerto Rican voters in 7 and 8 is only 788. Though the Puerto Ricans were solidly behind Carl Stokes, worked hard for his election, and gave him probably his most jubilant campaign reception on the West Side, they comprise only 7.6 percent of the near West Side voting population.

On the second count, "exposure to West Side voters," the Mayor owes the Democratic party less than he thinks. (Most West Side Democratic councilmen avoided being seen with him during the campaign.) Weeks, and even months before Election Day, large numbers of near-West Side voters had made up their minds to vote for Carl Stokes.

In mid-October, not long after Robert Kelly's bitter law-and-order primary campaign had stirred up the old hates and the "nigger" talk, Stokes canvassers warily picked up their telephones to find out the lay of the land. What they discovered was substantial support for the Mayor; some purely on the basis of party loyalty ("My husband wouldn't care if a man was blue, green or purple, so long as he was a Democrat"), but just as much based on performance. "He's for the underdog," an el-

derly Italian voter said with a heavy accent. "This town had been dead for 20 years until he took over," said another voter. "He's a good man, whether he's white or black," commented a lady with a West Virginia accent. "And I surely appreciate those new lights down the street."

A resident of a Polish, Russian and Ukrainian precinct observed that services were beginning to improve in the neighborhood, and that Mayor Stokes "is always the perfect gentleman." (Little old ladies love to watch the Mayor on television. "He's smooth as wax," one said. "I noticed Mr. Perk's collar was rumpled last week when I saw him.")

A neighborhood organizer, asked why a group of Southern Appalachians, who had been angry with the Mayor in the spring, now intended to vote for him: "It's simple. They know he's halfway responsive to their needs. They want to be sure they have the same guy to fight this time. Let's face it. Stokes has made poor people's claims legitimate. He's legitimized community control."

It should be pointed out, however, that the racists were still there, passing out hate literature, and that a couple of West Side windows with Stokes signs were shattered by bullets and rocks.

An important factor in "The West Side Story," as the *Cleveland Press* called Stokes' win, was the tight and bouncy campaign run in Wards 7 and 8 by Bill Hale, young Texas-raised director of the West Side Community House. "We didn't have any money, but we had the manpower," Hale says. The votes were there, and Hale was determined to get them. The regular Democratic party offered no help, but a grass roots corps of dedicated neighborhood workers had sprung up; swarms of college students from Oberlin, Antioch, Wooster College and Ohio State descended on the office on Election Day to help get voters to the polls. "Perk simply didn't have the manpower or the personal contacts over here in 7 and 8," Hale maintains.

MARY DOWLING DALEY

(Mary Dowling Daley has published articles on a wide variety of subjects in the *New York Times*, *Christian Science Monitor* and the *Washington Star*.)

NEXT WEEK

Commonweal's Christmas book issue will feature Neil P. Hurley writing on the real-life implications, philosophical and theological, of popular science-fiction themes.

There will also be a lengthy interview-conversation with energetic novelist, sometime poet Joyce Carol Oates. Linda Kuehl is the party of the first part.

Finally, several of our critic-friends will list their Christmas book recommendations.

A modest proposal: Hedge schools again

By MARY DOWLING DALEY

Jonathan Swift, the great Irish satirist, author of "Gulliver's Travels" and dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin, once offered his fellow countrymen what he called "A Modest Proposal," a plan to relieve Dublin's poor of the burden of supporting their large families. When a child reached the age of 1, he suggested, the parents should have it stewed, roasted, baked or boiled, then made into a fine fricassee or ragout to fill the bellies of the rich.

The public refused to recognize that Swift was writing with tongue in cheek. Readers screamed "monster!" and "blockhead!" Toward the end of his life they intimated that he might just be insane.

At the risk of being pursued by hordes of angry American parents, I too have a proposal: that education be illegal in the United States — at least until we catch up with the Japanese.

Across the whole of America, it's no secret that our schools are in trouble.

Whether a school is located in city, suburb or farmland, the problems can range from truancy and drugs, dropouts and guns, short budgets and burned-out teachers, and unacceptable reading, math and science levels, to student and parent apathy. But one of the most widespread problems may be peer pressure — pressure built on the proposition that school is not cool.

Earlier governments than ours have proposed that education be made illegal — our own, for one. Before the Civil War some Southern states enacted laws under which a slave would be flogged if caught reading, or might have his fingers or thumbs cut off for teaching himself to write. Even the slave-owner who taught his own slave to read and write was at risk of fines or imprisonment.

It was a tragic part of our history, but the very challenge of illegality drove many a slave, for instance Frederick Douglass, to teach himself or herself to read and to write. And from there some were driven to greatness.

Being Irish-American, I am driven to tell the story of illegal education in the birthplace of my immigrant grandparents.

Ireland, a country that has been Catholic since the fifth century, experienced similar education prohibitions after the 16th century Protes-

tant Reformation, though there is no record of the punishment being as physically cruel as it would be for the American slaves 200 years later.

In their new-found religious zeal, the English, who had ruled over Ireland since the 12th century, were dedicated to saving their Catholic subjects from damnation and from their "lothesome and horrible errors" (sic).

But the real danger was not to the Catholic Irish soul, but to the throne of Elizabeth I and her followers. England's most powerful enemies at the time were France and Spain, Catholic countries and friends of Ireland.

It was not until about 1700, however, after the defeat of the native Irish in the bitter Battle of the Boyne, that an infamous Penal Code was put into effect in Ireland. Among other deprivations, the penalties for illegal teaching became so severe (a Catholic parent could be heavily fined and imprisoned for up to a year for allowing his children to be taught by a Catholic teacher) that teaching had to go underground.

The result was the emergence of the felonious hedge schools, which would later be called a conspiracy of parents, teachers and children.

In good weather the children huddled secretly with the hedgemaster behind thick bramble bushes. When the weather turned cold, they met in dark caves thick and bitter with the smoke of the burning turf they had brought from home, or in sod huts thrown up by their parents by the side of the road.

One child was always stationed outside, hidden behind a hedge, to watch for a law officer or an informer so he could alert the schoolmaster. If the group was apprehended, they simply scattered, only to meet in a different spot the next day, hoping their teacher had escaped a prison sentence.

Under this itinerant system of education, the list of approved textbooks was somewhat eclectic, limited only by the number of books a schoolmaster could carry in his satchel.

The satchel belonging to a typical hedge schoolmaster might hold a copy of Euclid's Geometry, spellers and arithmetic books for children of various ages, and books of geography, astronomy, Latin, Greek — and perhaps a sprinkling of tales about pirates or prostitutes.

After the penal laws were relaxed, an education commissioner reported that he had come upon a hedge school in County Sligo where one

child was reading "Forty Thieves," and another "The Pleasant Art of Money Catching." Between them sat a lad who was deep into the New Testament. All three were reading aloud at the same time.

Another schoolmaster might offer his older students a life of Napoleon Bonaparte or the "Letters of Madame de Sevigne." "The New System of Boxing" might come in handy too.

One commentator sniffed disgustedly that the books in the hedge schools were "vulgar, ill-written histories ... not calculated to impress on the children's minds a sense of religion or virtue."

Maybe not, but it could be posited that the free-flowing fare produced some pretty avid readers.

Thirty-some years after the introduction of the Penal Code the government finally admitted that it had been outfoxed.

A formal inquiry into the Irish school situation had turned up a total of 549 illegal hedge schools numbering 300,000 to 400,000 thousand students. From this point on, though the laws prohibiting Catholic schools were still on the books, they were only half-heartedly enforced.

At the end of the 18th century a schools inspector from England trudged through cities and the countryside visiting hundreds of Irish schools, both the Protestant church schools and the chaotic hedge schools of the Catholic peasants.

His conclusion? That the children of "the poorer sort of Irish" were better educated than the children of the middle and upper classes.

But the Irish poet William Butler Yeats (1865-1939) seems to have had the final word.

In writing about William Carleton, a writer who had attended hedge schools himself and later operated his own, Yeats said that the Irish hedge schoolmasters "were a queer race, bred by government in its endeavor to put down Catholic education."

"The thing being forbidden, the peasantry had sent their children to learn reading and writing and a little Latin even, under the 'hips and the haws' of the hedges. [Latin was the math and science of today in difficulty.] The sons of plowmen were hard at work construing Virgil and Horace, so great a joy is there in illegality."

I rest my case.

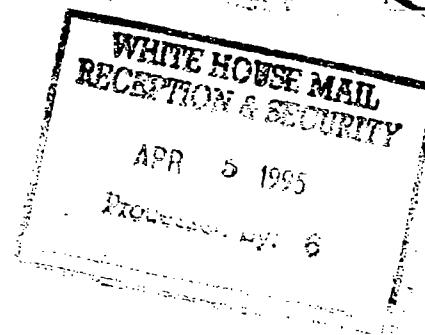
Daley is an author and free-lance writer here.

Daley
3160 Chadbourne Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio 44120

PERSONAL

Ms. Maggie Williams
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Chief of Staff for Mrs. Hillary Clinton



THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(East Lansing, Michigan)

For Immediate Release

May 5, 1995

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION

Spartan Stadium
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan

1:30 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: President McPherson, Governor Engler, Ambassador Blanchard, distinguished members of Congress and state officials, members of the Board of Trustees, distinguished faculty, honored guests, family members, and most importantly, members of the Class of 1995 -- (applause) -- I'm honored to be your speaker today and to be back on this wonderful campus, the site of one of the great presidential debates in 1992. (Applause.)

I have fond memories of Michigan State. And I was sitting there thinking of all the uses to which I might put my honorary degree. (Applause.) Maybe I will get more respect in Washington now. (Laughter.) Regardless, now I know who I'm supposed to root for in the Big 10. (Applause.)

Speaking of sports, I want to take a moment of personal privilege to offer my very best wishes on his retirement to your distinguished basketball coach, Judd Heathcote. (Applause.)

And as a person who never, ever, would have had an opportunity to be here today, doing what I am doing, I want to thank President McPherson, the present and past governors of Michigan, and all others who have supported the remarkable set of educational opportunities for young people in Michigan, especially in higher education. The tuition guarantee program to keep tuition increases here to the rate of inflation for five years is a standard I wish other universities all across America would follow. (Applause.)

I also hope that other states will follow the example of the Michigan Education Trust, and of Michigan State in entering into the direct loan program, which will lower the cost of college loans for young people and improve their repayment options so more people can afford to go to college and stay there until they get their degrees. (Applause.)

I also want to say that I am deeply honored to be joined today by another Michigan State alumnist who spoke from this platform last year, my friend and fellow Arkansas, Ernest Green. He was one of the Little Rock Nine, a brave group of Americans who staked their lives for the cause of school integration and equal opportunity in education in my state almost 40 years ago. He made the right choice at the right moment in his life. He is a good model for you, and I hope you will do the same. (Applause.)

As I was reminded by your president and others when we gathered just a few moments ago, the last sitting president to address this assembly was Theodore Roosevelt in 1907. There were fewer than 100 graduates in the senior class then. (Laughter.) But it was a time not unlike this time. We are on the edge of a

MORE

new century; they had just begun a new century. We are on the edge of a new era; they had just begun the dawn of the industrial age. Like us now, they had many, many opportunities, but profound problems. And people were full of hope mixed with fear.

But President Roosevelt and his generation of Americans were optimistic, aggressive in facing the challenges of the day, and determined to solve the problems before them. They launched the progressive era, using the power of government to free the market forces of our country from the heavy hand of monopoly, beginning to protect our environment for future generations, to keep our children out of sweatshops, to stand strong for America's role in the world.

Theodore Roosevelt and the Americans of his generation made the right choices at the right moment. They met the challenges of the present, paved the way for a better future, and redeemed the promise of America.

Our journey as a nation has never been an automatic march to freedom and opportunity. In every generation there has come a point of challenge in change. When critical decisions are made by our people to go forward to turn back, to reach out or turn inward, to unify or divide, to believe or doubt.

Today, we stand at the end of the Cold War and the Industrial Age, at the onset of the global economy and the Information Age. Throughout all 219 years of our republic, times of great change like this have unleashed forces of promise and threat, forces that uplift us and unsettle us.

This time is not different. You are walking into a future of unlimited possibilities. But more than half your fellow citizens are working harder, spending less time with their children, and earning about the same they did 15 years ago.

You can look forward to bringing your children into an exciting world, freer of the dangers of war and nuclear annihilation, but the dangers here at home are still profound. Too many of our children are not born into stable families. Our streets are still too violent. And new forces threaten the order and security which free people everywhere cherish.

And so, my fellow Americans, it falls to your generation to make your historic choices for America. This is a very new and different time. But the basic question before us is as old as our country: Will we face up to the problems and seize our opportunities with confidence and courage? It is our responsibility to make that choice again.

Because you have a fine education, with all its power and potential, when you leave this stadium your responsibility to your families, your community and your country will be greater than ever before. With your lives fully before you, you, too, must once again redeem the promise of America.

On the home front there is reason for optimism. Though income stagnation and economic uncertainty plague too many of our people, unemployment is down, inflation is low, our deficit is declining, trade is up, and most importantly of all, educational opportunities are increasing. Though crime and violence, drug abuse and welfare dependency and out-of-wedlock pregnancies are still too high and threaten our social fabric, we are making a serious assault on all of them, and we can make progress on all of them. Though government is still too cumbersome and outdated, it is growing smaller, more flexible, less wasteful and more effective.

In all these endeavors you must demand higher standards and more personal responsibility. But you must know that progress is possible.

Beyond our borders there is also reason for hope. Since the end of the Cold War the bonds among nations and the forces of commerce have grown stronger. There is now a greater understanding of our world's environmental challenges, and a willingness to do something about them. Freedom, democracy and free enterprise are on the march. Large countries are much less likely to go to war with one another. I am very proud to say that for the first time since the dawn of the nuclear age, no Russian missiles are pointed at the people of the United States. (Applause.)

And I am equally proud to say that next week I will become the first American president in nearly 40 years to visit Russia when no American missiles are pointed at the people of Russia. (Applause.)

Therefore, you who graduate today will have the chance to live in the most exciting, the most prosperous, the most diverse and interesting world in the entire history of humanity. Still you must face the fact that no time is free of problems, and we have new and grave security challenges.

In this, the 20th century, millions of lives were lost in wars between nations, and in efforts by totalitarian dictatorships to stamp out the light of liberty among their subjects. In the 21st century, bloody wars of ethnic and tribal hatred will be fought still in some parts of the world. But with freedom and democracy advancing, the real threat to our security will be rooted in the fact that all the forces that are lifting us up and opening unparalleled opportunity for us contain a dark underside. For open societies are characterized by free and rapid movements of people and technology and information. And that very wonder makes them very, very vulnerable to the forces of organized destruction and evil. So the great security challenge for your future in the 21st century will be to determine how to beat back the dangers while keeping the benefits of this new time.

The dark possibilities of our age are visible now in the smoke, the horror and the heartbreak of Oklahoma City. As the long and painful search and rescue effort comes to an end with 165 dead, 467 injured, and 2 still unaccounted for, our prayers are with those who lost their loved ones, and with the brave and good people of Oklahoma City, who have moved with such strength and character to deal with this tragedy.

But that threat is not isolated. And you must not believe it is. We see that threat again in the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York; in the nerve gas attack in the Tokyo subway; in the terrorist assault on innocent civilians in the Middle East; in the organized crime plaguing the former Soviet Union now that the heavy hand of communism has been lifted. We see it even on the Internet, where people exchange information about bombs and terrorism, even as children learn from sources all around the world.

My fellow Americans, we must respond to this threat in ways that preserve both our security and our freedoms. Appeasement of organized evil is not an option for the next century any more than it was in this century. Like the vigilant generations that brought us victory in World War II and the Cold War, we must stand our ground. In this high-tech world, we must make sure that we have the high-tech tools to confront the high-tech forces of destruction and evil.

That is why I have insisted that Congress pass strong anti-terrorism legislation immediately -- to provide for more than 1,000 new law enforcement personnel solely to fight terrorism; to create a domestic anti-terrorism center; to make available the most up-to-date technology to trace the source of any bomb that goes off; and to provide tough new punishment for carrying stolen explosives, selling those explosives for use in a

violent crime, and for attacking members of the uniformed services or federal workers.

To their credit, the leaders of Congress have promised to put a bill on my desk by Memorial Day. I applaud them for that. This is not, and must never be, a partisan issue. This is about America's future. It is about your future. (Applause.)

We can do this without undermining our constitutional rights. In fact, the failure to act will undermine those rights. For no one is free in America where parents have to worry when they drop off their children for day care, or when you are the target of assassination simply because you work for our government. No one is free in America when large numbers of our fellow citizens must always be looking over their shoulders.

It is with this in mind that I would like to say something to the paramilitary groups and to others who believe the greatest threat to America comes not from terrorists from within our country or beyond our borders, but from our own government.

I want to say this to the militias and to others who believe this, to those nearby and those far away: I am well aware that most of you have never violated the law of the land. I welcome the comments that some of you have made recently condemning the bombing in Oklahoma City. I believe you have every right, indeed you have the responsibility, to question our government when you disagree with its policies. And I will do everything in my power to protect your right to do so.

But I also know there have been lawbreakers among those who espouse your philosophy. I know from painful personal experience as a governor of a state who lived through the cold-blooded killing of a young sheriff and a young African American state trooper who were friends of mine by people who espouse the view that the government was the biggest problem in America and that people had a right to take violence into their own hands.

So I ask you to hear me now. It is one thing to believe that the federal government has too much power and to work within the law to reduce it. It is quite another to break the law of the land and threaten to shoot officers of the law if all they do is their duty to uphold it.

It is one thing to believe we are taxed too much and work to reduce the tax burden. It is quite another to refuse to pay your taxes, though your neighbor pays his. It is one thing to believe we are over-regulated and to work to lessen the burden of regulation. It is quite another to slander our dedicated public servants, our brave police officers, even our rescue workers who have been called a hostile army of occupation.

This is a very free country. Those of you in the militia movements have broader rights here than you would in any other country in the entire world. (Applause.)

Do people who work for the government sometimes make mistakes? Of course, they do. They are human. Almost every American has some experience with this -- a rude tax collector, an arbitrary regulator, an insensitive social worker, an abusive law officer. As long as human beings make up our government there will be mistakes. But our Constitution was established by Americans determined to limit those abuses. And thing of the limits -- the Bill of Rights, the separation of powers, access to the courts, the right to take your case to the country through the media, and the right to vote people in or out of office on a regular basis.

But there is no right to resort to violence when you don't get your way. There is no right to kill people. (Applause.) There is no right to kill people who are doing their duty, or minding their own business, or children who are innocent in every way. Those are the people who perished in Oklahoma City. And those who claim such rights are wrong and un-American. (Applause.)

Whenever in our history people have believed that violence is a legitimate extension of politics they have been wrong. In the 1960s, as your distinguished alumni said, many good things happened and there was much turmoil. But the Weathermen of the radical left who resorted to violence in the 1960s were wrong. Today, the gang members who use life on the mean streets of America, as terrible as it is, to justify taking the law into their own hands and taking innocent life are wrong. The people who came to the United States to bomb the World Trade Center were wrong.

Freedom of political speech will never justify violence -- never. Our founding fathers created a system of laws in which reason could prevail over fear. Without respect for this law there is no freedom. (Applause.)

So I say this to the militias and all others who believe that the greatest threat to freedom comes from the government instead of from those who would take away our freedom: If you say violence is an acceptable way to make change, you are wrong. If you say that government is in a conspiracy to take your freedom away, you are just plain wrong. (Applause.)

If you treat law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line for your safety every day like some kind of enemy army to be suspected, derided and, if they should enforce the law against you, to be shot, you are wrong. (Applause.) If you appropriate our sacred symbols for paranoid purposes and compare yourselves to colonial militias who fought for the democracy you now rail against, you are wrong. (Applause.)

How dare you suggest that we in the freest nation on Earth live in tyranny. How dare you call yourselves patriots and heroes.

I say to you, all of you, the members of the Class of 1995, there is nothing patriotic about hating your country, or pretending that you can love your country but despise your government. There is nothing heroic about turning your back on America, or ignoring your own responsibilities. If you want to preserve your own freedom, you must stand up for the freedom of others with whom you disagree. But you also must stand up for the rule of law. You cannot have one without the other.

The real American heroes today are the citizens who get up every morning and have the courage to work hard and play by the rules -- the mother who stays up the extra half hour after a long day's work to read her child a story; the rescue worker who digs with his hands in the rubble as the building crumbles about him; the neighbor who lives side-by-side with people different from himself; the government worker who quietly and efficiently labors to see to it that the programs we depend on are honestly and properly carried out; most of all, the parent who works long years for modest pay and sacrifices so that his or her children can have the education that you have had and the chances you are going to have. (Applause.) I ask you never to forget that.

And I would like to say one word to the people of the United States. I know you have heard a lot of publicity in recent days about Michigan and militias. But what you have seen and heard is not the real Michigan. This is the real Michigan. (Applause.)

This is the real Michigan in this stadium today. (Applause.) The real Michigan is Michigan State. It's the astonishing revival of the automobile industry, with the remarkable partnership between the autoworkers and the management. Real Michigan is Kellogg's Corn Flakes and the best cherries in the world. (Laughter and applause.) The real Michigan is the Great Lakes and the UP.

And the real Michigan -- (applause) -- most of all, the real Michigan was presented to me when I got off the plane and one of your local officials told me that here in mid-Michigan in only five days, the people of this area raised \$70,000 to pay for the help that people need in Oklahoma City. (Applause.) And that money is now on its way to Oklahoma City in a 27-car caravan, led by members of 27 different law enforcement agencies from this part of your wonderful state. That is what I want America to know about the real Michigan. (Applause.)

So, my fellow Americans and members of the Class of 1995, let me close by reminding you once again that you live in a very great country. (Applause.) When we are united by our humanity and our civic virtue, nothing can stop us. Let me remind you once again that our best days as a nation still lie before us. But we must not give into fear or use the frustrations of the moment as an excuse to walk away from the obligations of citizenship.

Remember what our founding fathers built. Remember the victories won for us in the Cold War and in World War II, 50 years ago next week. Remember the blood and sweat and triumph that enabled us to come to this, the greatest moment of possibility in our history.

Go out and make the most of the potential God has given you. Make the most of the opportunities and freedoms America has given to you. Be optimistic; be strong. Make the choices that Theodore Roosevelt made, that Ernest Green made. Seize your moment. Build a better future. And redeem once again the promise of America.

Thank you, and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END

1:58 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

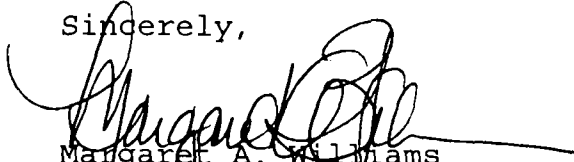
October 7, 1996

Mr. Louis D'Alessandro
2448 Harmony Hill Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Dear Mr. D' Alessandro:

Thank you for your recent letter containing your ideas for the campaign. We will forward your letter to the Clinton/Gore Reelect Campaign. Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,



Margaret A. Williams
Chief of Staff
to the First Lady